

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Cornelius Borst et al.

Examiner:

NOT YET ASSIGNED

Serial No.: NOT YET ASSIGNED

Group Art Unit: NOT YET

ASSIGNED

Filed

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Docket:

P-3875CON

Title

: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TEMPORARILY IMMOBILIZING A

LOCAL AREA OF TISSUE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 26231

Sir:

Please preliminarily amend the above identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-19 and add the following new claims:

. (New) A method of performing open or closed chest cardiac

surgery comprising:

accessing a surface of the heart;

positioning a first member having a first suction port along a first planar

surface on the surface of the heart;

coupling a suction source to the suction port of the first member;